

NEW RECORD FOR *CHIRORHYNCHOBIA MATSONI* (ASTIGMATA: CHIRORHYNCHOBIIIDAE)¹

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ABSTRACT: Cueva de San Juan, Tepoztlan, Morelos, Mexico is cited as a new locality record for *Chirorhynchobia matsoni* Yunker, 1970.

The Chirorhynchobiidae is a very bizarre family of mites that are ectoparasites of South American bats. They have developed some specialized modifications such as unsegmented, massive and very esclerotized pedipalps. They attach themselves to the wing membrane of their host with the aid of their highly modified pedipalps and chelicerae. Only two species of this monogeneric family are known and very few specimens have been collected, all of them females.

The first species, *Chirorhynchobia urodermae* was described by Fain in 1967, when he erected the Chirorhynchobiidae to family status, based on a single specimen collected on *Uroderma bilobatum* from Panama, preserved in alcohol. The second species, *C. matsoni* Yunker, 1970, came based on seven specimens of *Anoura geoffroyi*, from Zulia, Venezuela.

The two different genera of bat-host *Uroderma* and *Anoura* belong to two subfamilies of the Phyllostomidae. According to this, one may consider that there may be some host-parasite specificity.

Now we have found one specimen of *C. matsoni* on *Anoura geoffroyi lasiopyga* Peters; it is a female 480 μ long and all characters agree with Yunker's original description, except for the greater width (Type 295 μ) of our specimen (340 μ), probably explained by the large egg contained in the opistosoma of the female.

The new record is: Cueva de San Juan Tepoztlan, Morelos, Mexico, 9-X-1978, J.G. Palacios-Vargas col.

Yunker's specimens were attached by their mouthparts to the trailing edge of the wing membrane. Our specimen was found walking on the foot, about two hours after the bat was killed.

¹Received October 6, 1979

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The distribution of *Chirorhynchobia matsoni* may be as wide as that of its host and *Anoura geoffroyi lasiopyga* is widely distributed in Mexico, Central and South America.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to thank to Dr. Bernardo Villa for the determination of the bat and Dr. Anita Hoffmann for her comments to this paper.

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